

Bungandidj language

Bungandidj is a language of Australia, spoken by the Bungandidj people, Indigenous Australians who lived in an area which is now in south-eastern South Australia and in south-western Victoria. According to Christina Smith and her book on the Buandig people, the Bungandidj called their language *drualat-ngolonung* (speech of man), or *Booandik-ngolo* (speech of the Booandik).^[4] As of 2017, there is a revival and maintenance programme under way for the language.^[5]

Historical variants of the name include: *Bunganditj*, *Bungandaetch*, *Bunga(n)daetcha*, *Bungandity*, *Bungandit*, *Buganditch*, *Bungaditj*, *Pungantitj*, *Pungatitj*, *Booganitch*, *Buanditj*, *Buandik*, *Booandik*, *Boandiks*, *Bangandidj*, *Bungandidjk*, *Pungandik*, *Bak-on-date*, *Barconedeet*, *Booandik-ngolo*, *Borandikngolo*, *Bunganditjngolo*, and *Burhwundeirtch*.

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Phonology

Bungandidj phonology is typical of Australian languages generally, sharing characteristics such as a single series of stops (no voicing contrast) at six places of articulation, a full corresponding set of nasals, laminals at all four coronal places of articulation and two glides.^[6] Extrapolating from historical written sources and knowledge of surrounding languages, Blake posits the following consonant inventory:^[6]

Consonants

Bungandidj	
	Buwandik
Region	South-east South Australia <div>South-west Victoria</div>
Ethnicity	Bungandidj
Extinct	(date missing)
Language family	<div>Pama–Nyungan<ul style="list-style-type: none">Southeastern<ul style="list-style-type: none">Victorian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kulin–Bungandidj<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bungandidj</div>
Dialects	<div>Bungandidj</div> <div>Pinejunga</div> <div>Mootatunga</div> <div>Wichintunga</div> <div>Polinjunga^[1]</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	xbg
Glottolog	bung1264 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/bung1264) ^[2]
AIATSIS ^[3]	S13 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/australianlanguages/language/S13)

	Peripheral		Laminal		Apical	
	Bilabial	Velar	Dental	Palatal	Alveolar	Retroflex
Plosive	p [p]	k [k]	th	tj [c]	t [t]	rt [ʈ]
Nasal	m [m]	ng [ŋ]	nh	ny [ɲ]	n [n]	rn [ɳ]
Flap/Trill					rr [r]	
Lateral			lh	ly [ʎ]	l [l]	rl [ɭ]
Approximant	w [w]			y [j]		r [ɻ]

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i [i]		u [u]
Open		a [a]	

Notes on orthography

- Early descriptions of Bungandidj made no distinction between the trill/flap /r/ and approximant /ɻ/ and evidence for this contrast is based on comparative evidence only. Blake transcribes both as ⟨r⟩.^[6]
- Although there is no voicing distinction, stops are transcribed with voiced symbols ⟨b, g, dh, d, rd⟩ in homorganic nasal-stop clusters (where voicing is expected).^[6]
- Syllable-final palatals are transcribed with the digraphs ⟨yt, yn, yl⟩ to avoid a final -y being confused with a vowel.^[6]
- Historical sources include five vowel graphemes including ⟨e⟩ and ⟨o⟩, however it is likely that ⟨e⟩ belongs to the /i/ phoneme and ⟨o⟩ belongs to the /o/ phoneme. However, Blake conservatively retains some ⟨e⟩ and ⟨o⟩ segments where they are consistently transcribed in this way across historical sources.

A poem

Smith (1880), on pages 138–139, records a poem written in Bungandidj :^[4]

yul-yul, thumbal (Fly beetle, bat, night)
kallaball, moonarerebul (Fly, march-fly, beetle)
nana nan molanin (parrot, little parrot.)
korotaa, king nal (wattle bird,)
yongo birrit. (minah bird.)

References

1. Dixon, R. M. W. (2002). *Australian Languages: Their Nature and Development* (<http://www.cambridge.org/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=0521473780>). Cambridge University Press. p. xxxv.
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Bunganditj" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/bung1264>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck

Institute for the Science of Human History.

3. **S13** (<https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/S13>) Bungandidj at the Australian Indigenous Languages Database, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
4. Christina Smith, *The Booandik Tribe of South Australian Aborigines: A Sketch of Their Habits, Customs, Legends, and Language* (<https://archive.org/details/booandiktribeso00smitgoog>), Spiller, 1880
5. Monaghan, Paul (2017). "1. Structures of Aboriginal life at the time of colonisation in South Australia" (https://www.wakefieldpress.com.au/files/extracts/Colonialism_and_its_Aftermath_extract.pdf) (PDF). In Brock, Peggy; Gara, Tom (eds.). *Colonialism and its aftermath: A history of Aboriginal South Australia*. Extract, pp.i-xxiii. Wakefield. p. 17. ISBN 9781743054994.
6. Blake, Barry J. (2003). *The Bunganditj (Buwandik) language of the Mount Gambier region*. Australian National University. Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University. ISBN 9780858834958. OCLC 56054287 (<https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/56054287>).

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